

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 556

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to address waste water needs of the residents of colonias in the southwest region of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to address waste water needs of the residents of colonias in the southwest region of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Colonia Waste Water
5 Treatment Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) there is currently a severe lack of potable
2 water and waste water treatment facilities in the
3 southwest region of the United States;

4 (2) the lack of facilities has caused the pollution
5 of the region's rivers and ground water; and

6 (3) this pollution presents a grave threat to
7 public health, due to the proliferation of infectious
8 diseases under such conditions.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO COLONIAS.**

10 Title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
11 (33 U.S.C. 1281–1299) is amended by adding the follow-
12 ing new section:

13 **“SEC. 220. GRANTS TO COLONIAS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
15 vision of law, the Administrator is authorized to make
16 grants to each of the States of Texas, New Mexico, Ari-
17 zona, and California for waste water treatment for—

18 “(1) a colonia of such State that meets the re-
19 quirements of subsection (b); and

20 “(2) a county, municipality, or other political
21 subdivision of such State acting on behalf of a
22 colonia that meets the requirements of subsection
23 (b).

24 “(b) ELIGIBLE COLONIAS.—A colonia which meets
25 the requirements of this subsection is a community that—

1 “(1) is determined to be a colonia on the basis
2 of objective criteria, which may include the lack of
3 a potable water supply, lack of adequate sewage sys-
4 tems, or lack of decent, safe, and sanitary housing;

5 “(2) is located in the United States within 100
6 kilometers of the international boundary between
7 Mexico and the United States; and

8 “(3) was in existence as a colonia before No-
9 vember 27, 1992.

10 “(c) USE OF GRANT.—A grant made under this sec-
11 tion may be used for the planning, design, and construc-
12 tion, including the extension, improvement, alteration, or
13 reconstruction of facilities for the treatment of waste
14 water or the disposal of waste water by surface or under-
15 ground methods, or both.

16 “(d) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant made
17 under this section shall not exceed 100 percent of the costs
18 of the project that is the subject of the grant.

19 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years beginning
22 after September 30, 1995.”.

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